

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/016,156

Examiner

William C. Choi

Applicant(s)

NANBA, NORIHIRO

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 4/5/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0304
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Georgia Epps

Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

Allowed Claims: 1-29.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed combination of limitations to warrant a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103. Specifically, with respect to independent claim 1, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically wherein the third lens unit comprises a positive lens element cemented to a negative lens element, which moves along an optical axis for zooming, said second lens unit has an aspherical lens element and satisfies the claimed condition regarding the number of lens elements for each group.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 9, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically wherein the third lens unit moves along a convex locus to the image side in zooming from the wide angle end to the telephoto end.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 21, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the claimed condition regarding the number of lens elements for each group and wherein the second lens group consists of 3 lens elements.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 22, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the

claimed condition regarding the number of lens elements for each group and wherein the third lens unit moves along an optical axis for zooming and focusing.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 26, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the claimed condition regarding the number of lens elements for each group and wherein the second lens unit has a cemented lens unit formed by cementing a positive and a negative lens element, wherein the thickness of the positive lens element is greater than that of the negative lens element.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 27, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the claimed condition regarding the number of lens elements for each group and wherein the first, second and third lens units are included by said zoom lens.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2324. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from about 9:00 am to 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

W.C.
William Choi
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2873
June 28, 2004


Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800